

**New Spirit Lutheran Church  
Vision Team Meeting  
Dec. 8, 2009**

**Attendance:** Robin Hughes

Don Austin

Barbara Verthein

Pastor Alan

Terry Wolfe

Paul Stuetze

Richard Siegel

Donna Thompson

Barb Carty

Laurie Bernard

**Newly elected members to the VT:** Brigitte Stuetze, Tom Bartels, Terry Mysak, Mark Buglewicz

**Absent:** Justin Nast, Joyce Dow

**Opening:** Pastor Alan offered a reading from a book by Herb Brokering, Lord Be With.

**Prayer:** Pastor Alan's prayer centered on our being a family and making a home together.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don Austin reported that the Mission Investment Fund is now all Arivaca monies. The mortgage and benevolence payments are up to date, and our finances have been in the black for the past 6 months. See the Meetings Minutes Book in the Main Office for more detailed information on the finances. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the Treasurer's report.

**Minutes:** MSP

**Agenda:**

**Welcome to new members of VT:** new members were welcomed and participated in the discussion of the agenda as the meeting continued. A heartfelt thanks was extended to members whose terms have ended. These included Terry Wolfe, President emeritus, and Laurie Bernard, member at large. Joyce Dow's term has also ended; however, she was not present due to illness.

**Special Guest: Pastor Greg Mannel**

Pastor Alan introduced Pastor Mannel to the Vision Team and invited him to speak concerning his background and his proposal to seek office space for a consulting practice in exchange for pastoral assistance at New Spirit.

Pastor Mannel has been an ordained Lutheran pastor for 31 years. He and his wife, a hospice chaplain in Tucson, are from North Dakota and lived in the upper MidWest until three years ago. He served as interim pastor in Havasu City and at Sheherd of the Valley in Phoenix before moving to Tucson. He served as a chaplain in a long term care vacility while living in Minnesota. He is seeking

office space at New Spirit for his practice in pastoral and spiritual health counseling. In lieu of rent, he has offered himself and his wife as pulpit help, conducting Bible Studies, working with seniors, etc. Both he and his wife are interested in pastoral care, counseling and spiritual growth and would like to help people in life transitions. Some of the issues discussed with him included privacy issues and his work as an independent contractor rather than as a paid employee of New Spirit.

It was decided to discuss this issue further at the January Meeting and to consult with the Synod attorney, Don Stevens, before making any decisions.

### **Old Business:**

**1. Karen Cooper Letter with check:** Karen has cashed the check for her refund from the Columbarium. The usage of facilities at New Spirit by members was discussed in relation to Karen's using the Fellowship Hall for her granddaughter's quinceanera. Members may use the facilities of the church and are expected to either clean up or hire cleanup services. Paul suggested a listing of fees for cleanup services. This matter will be sent to the Operations Team concerning fees for cleanup.

**2. Strategic Plan: what's next? Response of congregation to goals set by Prayer and Discernment Day;** many people signed the sign up sheets for committees on the specific goals discerned at the Nov. 7th meeting. After discussion, it was decided that the sign up sheets must be posted where they will be more clearly visible for additional members of the congregation to peruse and to sign. The goals will be published in the January newsletter for further education of the congregation, and announcements will be made at both services to further publicize the need for members to get involved in the committees. There will also be an afternoon tea party on January 17th at 3:00 as a kickoff for the Strategic Plan.

**3. AED Training in January:** Liz and Justin are in the process of planning sessions for the training of the use of the AED during January.

**4. Fellowship Hall baffeling plan:** Don Austin contacted a company, Acoustical Surfaces, Inc., and received an approximate cost of \$6000 for the materials to be installed in the Fellowship Hall to dampen the noise level. Don had samples of the materials and showed the VT where the materials would be placed in the Hall. He said that directions for installation are on the company's website.

### **New Business:**

**1. Installation Sunday in January for new VT and Endowment Board members:** The date for the installation is January 3, 2010, at either service.

**2. YouthQuake meeting for Pastor Alan on Jan. 10th. Lay-led service or**

**visiting pastor?** Pastor Alan will be accompanying 5 boys to Carefree, AZ, for the YouthQuake meeting on January 10th. It was decided to ask Pastor Mannel if he could fill in for Pastor Alan. Two members of the VT, Robin and Mark, volunteered to assist him on that day.

**3. \$10,000 gift for "whatever" we need!:** The money is in Designated Funds and may be used for whatever we need. Several ideas were discussed such as installing tencel fabric as a covering for the patio or lighting for the Narthex. This item will be discussed further at the January meeting.

**4. Garden plots:** generating more interest in the garden plots was discussed. Paul Stuetze offered to help senior members of the congregation in setting up their plots. Pat Kelly has offered to go to schools to advertise the plots. Offering scholarships to cover the cost of water, etc., was mentioned as well as putting up signs advertising the gardens. A blurb for the newsletter was also suggested.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Alan closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Verthein